

## Note:

CONSUMER REGISTER lists proposed & final regulations of Federal agencies. To express your opinion, write. Although comments should reach agencies by the deadline, some agencies will consider comments received late. When in doubt about your comments reaching Washington by the deadline, mail anyway.

## Vinyl chloride in pesticides

On April 24 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suspended the sale & distribution of all pesticide aerosols containing vinyl chloride as a propellant. The order applies to pesticides used in enclosed areas such as food processing plants, homes, hospitals & restaurants. Although the order does not apply to pesticides for outdoor use, manufacturers are recalling these pesticides voluntarily. (In late March EPA asked pesticide manufacturers to ban the chemical voluntarily. This April 24 order is mandatory.)

EPA banned the following products:

Brolin Bug Bomb; Paracide with Sevin; Demert Raw Roach, Ant & Wasp Killer; Cobra International Roach, Ant & Wasp Killer; Rexall Ant & Roach Killer; Walgreen Ant & Roach Killer; Flea Killer for Dogs & Cats; Barcolene Spray Disinfectant; Coop Dairy Insecticide for Milk Houses & Animals; Excelcide 16-ounce Aerosol Bomb; Navy Brand Thrifty 50; Mothrid Moth Proofer; Mothrid Moth Proofer Cedar Scented or Activated Moth Proof Spray Cedarized; Nokout 25 Aerosol Insecticide; Strike-Wasp & Hornet.

Nokout 35 Insecticide; Spritz Metered Air Sanitizer; Anchor Flea, Lice & Tick Bomb; F-L-T Bomb; Yayne Flea, Lice & Tick; Rogers' Insecticide & Repellent; Total Release Insect Fogger; Crown "Total" Complete Release Insect Fogger; Roberts' "Total" Complete Release Insect Fogger; Chaperone Flea & Tick Killer; Pyrethrin Insecticide Pressurized Dairy Insecticide; Coop Pyrethrin Insecticide Pressurized Dairy Insecticide; & Mid-Am Brand Pyrethrin Insecticide Pressurized Dairy Insecticide.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 26, page 14753.

## Vinyl chloride in drugs & cosmetics

May 22 is deadline for comments on Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) proposal to ban vinyl chloride in drug & cosmetic aerosol products.

Vinyl chloride has been linked to a rare form of liver cancer among industrial workers who were exposed to the chemical. It was used as an aerosol propellant in drug & cosmetic products before June 1973, & although it is unlikely that many of these products remain on the market, FDA has requested the manufacturers to recall them as a precaution.

In addition, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) was used experimentally in plastic liquor bottles, but it was demonstrated that the chemical "migrated" into liquor stored in such bottles for up to 1 year. In May 1973 FDA proposed banning the use of plastic containers made of PVC & at the same time Treasury Dept. ended the use of these bottles for packaging liquor. FDA is now investigating the possibility of similar migration to nonalcoholic foods as well.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 22, page 14215; May 17,

CONSUMER REGISTER: July 1, 1973. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Food & Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

NOTE: In a related action, Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has asked drug manufacturers, packers & distributors to submit a list of all human drugs containing vinyl chloride & a list of all human drugs packaged or lined with polyvinyl chloride. The information is to be submitted to FDA by May 22. Details—*FR*: April 22, page 14238.

## Meat trimmings

May 24 is deadline for comments on Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) proposal to permit meat processors greater flexibility in their use of meat trimmings for certain meat products.

The proposal, if adopted, would eliminate the present requirement that all meat trimmings contain at least 12% lean meat. However, it would retain the requirement that the finished product comply with the fat limitation in its standard. For example, frankfurters could be made of meat trimmings containing less than 12% lean meat as long as the fat content of the frankfurters did not exceed 30%. These trimmings would not change the taste, texture or appearance of the products.

APHIS says this proposed change will make available trimmings for use in consumer products that are now classed as fats. Particularly in times of meat shortages these tissues can be utilized as raw ingredients.

Although the proposal eliminates the present 12% lean meat requirement for trimmings, it does retain another requirement: that the trimmings contain visible lean meat. APHIS says this flexibility will not reduce the total meat content or nutritional value of the products.

Details—*Federal Register*: March 21, page 10598. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Agriculture Dept., Washington, DC 20250.

## Child car seats

May 28 is deadline for National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) proposal to improve its safety standard for children's car seats.

The proposed regulations, to be effective Sept. 1, 1975, would apply to car beds, infant carriers & child harnesses, in addition to car seats, & would require

- In-motion crash tests, using test dummies in crashes from the front, side & rear.

- Each restraint (when belts are used) to be attached to the car by the car's belt system or by belts provided by the manufacturer.

- Car beds to be installed laterally across car seat, using a car seat belt or one supplied by manufacturer.

- Permanent labels giving name & address of manufacturer, model number, safe weight & height of children using car seats & a statement saying the device complies with Federal safety standards.

● Instruction manual showing how device should be installed & where the child should be placed.

*Details—Federal Register:* March 1, page 7959. Send comments to Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590.

## Motorcycles & 3-wheeled vehicles

May 31 is deadline for comments on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) proposal to revise again its definition of motorcycles. In a separate action NHTSA revoked the definition of motorcycles that was scheduled to go into effect Sept. 1.

The proposed new definition for a motorcycle is "either a 2-wheeled or a 3-wheeled motor vehicle with motive power & a handlebar for steering but with no passenger enclosure or provision for such enclosure, other than a windscreen, above the height of the handlebar grips when they are in the straight-ahead position."

The words "or provision for such an enclosure" are included in the redefinition to remove from the motorcycle category those vehicles designed to have a readily attachable top.

*Details—Federal Register:* April 30, pages 15039 & 15046; Nov. 27, 1973, page 32580; May 16, 1973, pages 12808 & 12818. CONSUMER REGISTER: March 1; July 1, 1973. Send comments to Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590.

## Federal Register

June 1 is deadline for Office of the Federal Register's request for suggestions to help *Federal Register* readers find material more easily than at present.

The Office of the Federal Register is developing an index of key words to provide readers with more satisfactory research tools. It would like to receive suggestions for key words for possible inclusion in the index from Federal agencies as well as from individuals.

Since 30,000 pages were printed in the *Federal Register* in the last 12 months, a standardized index of the contents would help interested persons find the information they need.

*Details—Federal Register:* April 24, page 14548. Send comments to Director of the Federal Register, National Archives & Records Service, General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20408.

## Air bags

June 3 is new deadline for comments on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) proposal to require passive restraints—such as air bags, which require no action by the vehicle occupant—in the front seats of all cars manufactured on or after Sept. 1, 1976. National Motor Vehicle Safety Advisory Council rec-

ommended additional time for comments because of the importance of the proposal.

Present regulations for cars manufactured between Sept. 1, 1973, & Aug. 14, 1975, call for one of the following options: (1) complete passive protection system; (2) head-on passive protection system; (3) lap & shoulder belt protection with ignition interlock & belt warning. Under the proposal, these options would be extended to Aug. 31, 1976, instead of ending Aug. 15, 1975.

The proposal would

- Require cars to provide passive protection to occupants from the front, side & at an angle in crash tests.

- Require lap belts with a sequential warning system at all designated seating positions if car does not pass the rollover test by passive means.

- Require lap belts for rear seats, as at present.

NHTSA feels the belt systems do not provide the best possible crash protection available under today's technology & the public has been resisting the belt-starter interlock system. (It is estimated that proper lap-shoulder belt usage on 1974 car models is probably below the 60% level.) In addition, NHTSA says there is a concentration of accident-prone drivers in the non-user group.

*Details—Federal Register:* April 26, page 14728; March 19, page 10271; Jan. 10, page 1513. CONSUMER REGISTER: Feb. 15. Send comments to Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590.

## Off-road vehicles

Agriculture Dept. has issued final regulations covering operating conditions of off-road vehicles (snowmobiles, minibikes & dune buggies) on National Forest System lands. The regulations became effective March 20.

National Forest received comments from government agencies, organizations, companies & consumers. All generally approved the regulations.

The regulations prohibit specific actions by operators of off-road vehicles that would hurt the environment, such as excessive noise, speed & disturbance or damage of land, wild life or plants. They also require adequate brakes, lights & compliance with existing state laws.

*Details—Federal Register:* March 20, page 10430; Oct. 23, 1973, page 29232; Feb. 9, 1972, page 2877. CONSUMER REGISTER: Dec. 15, 1973; March 15, 1972. CONSUMER NEWS: Feb. 1, 1972.

## Off-road vehicles (again)

Interior Dept. has issued regulations, effective today, specifying where off-road vehicles may be used on National Park Service lands.

This regulation, like the one above for National Forest System lands, implements the President's Executive Order 11644 on use of off-road vehicles on public lands.

*Details—Federal Register:* April 1, page 11882; Feb. 14, 1973, page 2877; Feb. 9, 1972, page 3608. CONSUMER NEWS: Feb. 1, 1972. CONSUMER REGISTER: March 1, 1973; March 15, 1972.

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